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CONSULATE OF THE UNITED STATES
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Department of State AUG 28 1970

BELEM, PARA, BRAZIL

Ambassy RIO DE JANEIRO

July 22, 1970

Guanabara Prisons Open to Inspection by Federal Deputies

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Guanabara's Secretary of Justice, Cotrim Neto, traveled to Brasilia last week to announce the first opening of a state's prisons to inspection by federal congressmen. Battered by earlier charges made by MDB chamber leader Humberto Lucena of tortures against political and common prisoners in Guanabara in a document sent to AREIA leaders Filinto Muller and Raimundo Padilha, Guanabara's Governor Ileguão de Lima apparently felt compelled to challenge Lucena's charges. The result was Cotrim Neto's trip to Brasilia where he met with Congressional leaders and announced that "Guanabara's prisons are open to the representatives of both parties, so that they can verify that no tortures are committed there against any prisoners".

Concerning five prisoners mentioned by name in Lucena's document as having been tortured in Guanabara prisons, Cotrim Neto denied that two of them, Mario Alves and Rui Manoel Gonçalves, had been imprisoned in recent years by the Guanabara penal authorities. Nor had there ever been a prisoner named Armando Queiroz Filho. He admitted that two of the individuals, José André Borges and Laís Guimarães Filho, are being held, but the Justice Secretary characterized them as dangerous and anti-social criminal elements serving long prison terms. He contended, however, that the Guanabara government strives to give them the best possible treatment under sometimes outmoded prison conditions.

COMMENT: With Guanabara the only state having an MDB (opposition) controlled government, its officials naturally feel in a more precarious position than would AREIA governments in other states in the face of charges of this nature. The state's leaders find the allegations against Guanabara coming from an MDB leader

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